

City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

November 4, 2009
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Keith Freihofer, Jesse Jennings, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey

Staff Present: Karen Callahan, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Pat Mann, P&Z, Sandra Marks, T&ES, Nancy Williams, P&Z.

1. Minutes

Vice Chairman Blakesley began the meeting and asked if any items in the October minutes required discussion. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. The October 7, 2009 minutes were approved 6-0.

2. I-395 Seminary Road Interchange Presentation

Vice Chairman Blakesley introduced Paul Prideaux of Michael Baker Corp., a VDOT consultant hired to determine whether a direct connection could be made to the BRAC-133 site from I-395. Mr. Prideaux reported options being considered include two options with access only to the south parking garage that is under construction, and/or using roads within the footprint of BRAC and I-395. Another set of options is access to the entire Mark Center property which would impact the nature center as there would be flyover roads over the nature center. Obtaining access to the south parking garage using the general purpose lanes for ingress and egress is another option. A remaining option is having access to the entire Mark Center site using only the HOV lanes north. Using either north or south HOV lanes would also impact the nature center. Mr. Prideaux answered questions from the group and announced a VDOT public hearing in January. The Commission will hold a public hearing on the subject at its December meeting.

3. Strategic Plan Update

City Council is updating the City of Alexandria strategic plan. There are seven goals of the plan and goal number 3 is transportation. The point of the current strategic plan process is to update the goals, objectives, initiatives, projects and programs the City will undertake for the next 5-10 years and the indicators of success. Two City Council members are assigned to work on each goal. A blue ribbon panel of transportation experts was invited to assist with updating Goal 3 of the strategic plan. This panel includes two representatives of the Commission, Jayme Blakesley and Jennifer Mitchell. The panel will consider public input and guide the council members with the tasks adhering to the "SMART" criteria (sustainable, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound). The three meeting dates for Goal 3 are

November 9 in Council Chambers, November 30 at Charles Barrett Elementary School and December 14 at Minnie Howard campus of TC Williams High School from 7-9 pm each night. The updating of the goal components should be completed by January 2010.

4. LRP Presentation and Discussion

Sandra Marks reported on the remaining tasks left in completing the prioritization of the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) for recommendation to City Council for funding. Ms. Marks indicated two Transportation Commission volunteers would be needed to work with staff on a subcommittee for the second round of prioritizing the LRP and report to the Commission at the December meeting. The format and criteria used may be reconsidered.

5. Staff Updates

Arlington/Alexandria Coordination – The Crystal City/Potomac Yard transit improvements project include the construction of transit-only lanes in both Arlington and Alexandria. The Crystal City/Potomac Yard corridor runs north-south between the Pentagon and Pentagon City in Arlington County and Braddock Road Metrorail Station in the City of Alexandria. The first segment of Arlington’s transitway is scheduled to be constructed between the Arlington/Alexandria border at Four Mile Run and South 26th Street. City staff is coordinating with Arlington County to have Arlington’s section of the transitway stop at the Potomac Yard retail center and not at the boundary line between Alexandria and Arlington.

HOT Lanes - The City has decided against joining the Arlington lawsuit at this time and believes that pursuing legislative action will be more productive. On October 27th City Council passed a resolution strongly opposing the HOT lanes project and seeking legislative action against the project. Furthermore, the City is proposing legislation that would direct VDOT to undertake any NEPA studies relating to the proposed HOT lanes project that would have been required if a categorical exclusion had not been granted.

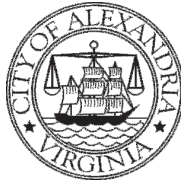
BRAC-133 – A portion of the December 2, 2009 Transportation Commission meeting will include a public hearing on “VDOT proposed Access Alternatives to the BRAC-133 DOD Site.”

Metro Feasibility - Issues that remain include funding, major transportation infrastructure, protecting adjacent neighborhoods and connectivity between the proposed BRT/Streetcar and Metrorail stations. A City Council work session is scheduled for November 24, 2009. Chairman Kumar will be replacing Commissioner Mitchell on the Potomac Yard Metro Feasibility work group.

6. Other business

The DASH Facility ribbon cutting ceremony will be Saturday, November 21 at 8am at the facility.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fossum and Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion.



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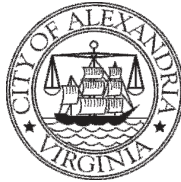
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